

March 4, 2020

Good afternoon,

In response to the ongoing Coronavirus concerns, Bishop Medley has asked that the Office of Worship share these few suggested prevention precautions concerning the liturgy that can protect against the spread of illness in our communities:

- Bishop Medley has stated that it would be prudent to suspend the practice of communicants receiving from the chalice at least until after Lent. You will be notified if this will be extended further in light of the circumstances at that point in time.
- Priests, deacons, altar servers, and all serving in the liturgy should wash their hands before mass and use an alcohol-based, anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Communion.
- Please remind parishioners that their obligation to attend Mass is abrogated in the case of illness. You could add that it may be possible for someone to bring them Communion if prudent.
- Consider refraining from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- The Sign of Peace may be given with a nod of the head instead of a handshake.
- Change the holy water in the fonts after each liturgy (and at least daily). If deciding to empty the font altogether, you could provide small bottles of holy water for parishioners to take home with them.
- During the Good Friday liturgy suggest a bow instead of kissing or touching the cross during veneration.

Let us continue to keep all who are sick and those who care for them in our prayers. We pray that they know God's loving presence and healing.

Please don't hesitate to ask you have any questions.

Thank you,

Lauren Johnson

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